Message Text

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CORRECTED COPY(MRN 2512 VICE 2912)

FOR NEA/ARP

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BGEN, YE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TOURIST VISIT OF YEMENI AMERICAN CITIZENS

TO YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

- 1. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GAYNOR JACOBSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS SERVICE OF NEW YORK (TEL: 212 674-6800) FROM AMBASSADOR SCOTES.
- 2. BEGIN MESSAGE: APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER OF AUG 19 WHICH WAS OPENED ONLY AFTER I RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM VACATION. I AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YEMEN GOVT OFFICIALS IN THE UN HAVE ENCOURAGED US CITIZENS OF YEMENI JEWISH ORIGIN TO VISIT YEMEN. I WAS AWARE OF COURSE, THAT THE YEMEN GOVT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ITS WILLINGNESS ACCEPT RETURN OF ANY FORMER YEMENI JEWS WHO WISHED TO RESETTLE HERE. VISITS BY FORMER YEMENI JEWS TO THEIR RELATIVES AND CO-RELIGIONISTS HERE WERE NOT MENTIONED ALTHOUGH GOVT OFFICIALS HERE SAY THAT THEIR POLICY AND PRACTICE IS TO ADMIT INDIVIDUALS OF ANY RELIGION WHO ARE ABLE TO SATISFY THE GOVT OF LEGITIMACY OF THEIR PROPOSED TRAVEL, BE IT FOR TOURISTIC, COMMERCIAL, CHARITABLE OR SCHOLARLY PURPOSES.

I NEED NOT TELL YOU THAT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE THE YARG THAT THE CONTACTS YOU PROPOSE HAVE NO CONCEALED POLITICAL MOTIVES WHICH SOMEHOW SERVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI RATHER THAN AMERICAN PURPOSES, BUT YOU CAN BE

SURE THAT I AM PREPARED RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE PROPOSED HIAS TRIP--IF YOU WISH--AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AS PART OF OUR OVERALL INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST AND PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IN MORE DETAIL WHAT THE VISIT INTENDS TO ACCOMPLISH, HOW LONG IT MIGHT TAKE, WHERE THE VISITORS MIGHT GO AND WHAT FOLLOW-ON IT MIGHT HAVE FOR YEMENI JEWS.

IN CONCLUSION, I WILL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN AND HOPE TO MEET LEONARD SEIDEMAN HERE IN SANA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE REPORTING AWARE WHICH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE BESTOWED ON ME AFTER MY ASSIGNMENT IN DAMASCUS. ALTHOUGH I MISS SYRIA IN MANY WAYS, I MUST ADMIT THAT YEMEN IS EVEN MORE INTERESTING AS A COUNTRY AND A SOCIETY--THOUGH MORE EXOTIC TOO. SINCERELY, THOMAS J SCOTES, AMBASSADOR. END MESSAGE. SCOTES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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